

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.]

DEAR EDITOR: In reading Miss Delia Knight's article in the October number of the JOURNAL on nurses putting their money in savings-banks instead of taking out a fifteen- or twenty-year-term life-insurance policy, I beg to state that some years ago I secured a policy in a New York company which I am convinced is way ahead of savings-bank illustrations referred to in the article in question. To prove this, I give you the name of Theodore Crowl, Sterling, Ill., who has deposited fifty dollars and forty-seven cents annually since July 29, 1881, and was offered in cash July 29, 1901, by the same New York company fifteen hundred and forty-eight dollars and thirty-five cents, which is a return of all money deposited, with 37.8 per cent. compound interest, including free insurance for the past twenty years. Every settlement by this company has returned the same proportion on participating policies. Miss Knight's article is, therefore, unfair, because a policy which guarantees only one thousand dollars, as she puts it, costs about ten dollars less than fifty dollars per year, all of which was fairly and fully explained to me by a representative of the company at the time I decided to adopt that means of protection and saving.

GRADUATE NURSE.

November 4, 1901.

DEAR EDITOR: Since the appearance of my letter on the Chicago quack nursing-school I have had quite a number of appeals from nurses as to what can be done, but, as usual, each one seems to think that someone else should do something, and I have not heard one say, "*I will do something about it.*" Now, of course, we know that "there ought to be a law against it," but meantime, while we are strengthening our organizations to the point where we may try to get laws passed, I would suggest to the nurses that much may be done right away by personal protest, by well-written and dignified expostulation, by moral suasion, and by organized appeals to the medical societies, also to the public through the more dignified and respectable of the daily press. In Philadelphia Miss Banfield has made some impression in medical quarters, and has brought some physicians to regard as we regard it the "Nurse Supply" institution of that city. This she accomplished almost single-handed; also, in Buffalo, the Nurses' Club protested, and successfully, against an attempt made to introduce the "trained attendant" system there.

These things show how much can be done by the personal action of nurses, and I believe that if the nurses in the cities where quack schools flourish would take the matter up for action and make themselves heard, they might materially check the advance of quack training. I would like to say to them all that it is absolutely necessary they should begin a crusade of this kind. So long as the medical profession do not know our views, how can they tell what is injurious

to nursing standards? We must remember they are not nurses. Nor can we hope ever to pass laws until we have informed and educated the public. I would therefore suggest that the organized nurses in our towns get together and frame letters of protest, setting forth the detriment to good nursing, and the danger to the public in these wrongly managed institutions, and send these letters to the medical societies, also to the press, and that they enter them all in their own minutes for the help and guidance of other nurses. This is the first thing to do—the logical thing. Does not the Bible say that when we have grievances we shall *first* go and talk them over with the people who are offending us, and after that, if no redress is to be had from them, then we can appeal to public opinion? (Not quite in these words, but the idea is the same.)

Yours sincerely,

L. L. DOCK.

THE COLORADO FUEL AND IRON COMPANY'S HOSPITAL,
PUEBLO, COL., November 11, 1901.

DEAR EDITOR: In the October number of *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING* I noticed an item concerning the building of a new hospital at Colorado Springs, Col. I wish to correct that item. The hospital is being built here in Pueblo, and is the property of The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, and when complete will cost about four hundred thousand dollars; the ambulance barn alone costs twelve thousand dollars. There is a large residence on the grounds for the physicians and their wives (if they happen to have any), a laundry, a lounging- and smoking-room for patients, a building for contagious diseases, five wards, and an administration building, all of which are separate buildings, and are connected with the administration building by telephone, with the exception of the wards, which are connected by corridors and inclines instead of stairs. The wards are two-stories and are ventilated by indirect heat and the fan system, similar to that used in the Johns Hopkins. The largest wards contain four beds only, and there will be beds for about two hundred patients. This is only a brief outline of the work this company is doing for the men they employ. We are now seeking a nurse to act as a visiting nurse for the different camps. Perhaps you may know of some nurse who would like such work. It would be a great work for any woman to be able to find her way into the hearts of these poor people. Sincerely yours,

JENNIE S. COTTLE,
Chief Nurse.

[LETTERS to the Editor must be accompanied by the name in full and address of the writer, otherwise such communications cannot be recognized. The name need not appear in the *JOURNAL* unless so desired.—ED.]

